

WM. B. KEENE AND JOHN L. MARTIN.

JANUARY 10, 1832.

MR. MARSHALL, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William B. Keene and John L. Martin, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That it is satisfactorily shown, that the claimants were entitled, under the pre-emption law of the 29th May, 1830, to a preference in becoming the purchasers of a tract of land, on Lake Providence, in the State of Louisiana. On a survey of the fractional township, in which the land is situated, long after they had made their improvements, it appears that the part, which they had improved, was designated as No. 16, which, by law, is reserved for the use of schools. It further appears that the petitioners had made very valuable improvements by erecting a cotton gin and mill, and other buildings, on the land. The Receiver of public moneys; in that district, refused to permit them to complete their purchase, but earnestly recommended the case, as one of great hardship, to the favorable attention of the Secretary of the Treasury. It appears that, in surveying the township in this case, the ordinary mode was deviated from, and those who made the improvement could not have anticipated that it would fall within No. 16.

On application to the department, the Commissioner of the General Land Office was inclined to permit the claimants to complete their purchase, and to direct the Register and Receiver, in that land district, to select and reserve for the use of schools, an equal quantity of lands of the same value, in lieu of it, in the same or the next adjoining township; but the then Secretary of the Treasury was of opinion that it could not be done consistently with the existing laws. The committee are of opinion, that the views of the Commissioner of the General Land Office are equitable; and that the claimants ought to be permitted to complete their purchase, and another tract, of equal value, be selected for the use of schools. And they report a bill to that effect.

WILLIAM B. KEENE AND JOHN E. MARTIN.

JANUARY 10, 1852.

REPORT.

Mr. MARSHALL, from the Committee on Private Land Claims, made the following

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition of William B. Keene and John E. Martin, signed and the same under consideration, and report:

That it is respectfully shown that the claimants were entitled under the pre-emption law of the 20th May, 1830, to a preference in obtaining the purchase of a tract of land, on Lake Providence, in the State of Louisiana. On a survey of the tract of land, in which the land is situated, made long after they had made their improvements, it appears that the part which they had improved, was designated as No. 10, within the law, is reserved for the use of schools. It further appears that the petitioners had made very valuable improvements by erecting a cotton gin and mill, and other buildings on the land. The Secretary of public money, in that district, refused to permit them to complete their purchase, but earnestly recommended the case as one of great hardship to the favoritism of the Secretary of the Treasury. It appears that in surveying the land in this case, the ordinary mode was devised from, and those who made the improvement could not have anticipated that it would fall within

No. 10. On application to the department, the Commissioner of the General Land Office was inclined to permit the claimants to complete their purchase, and to direct the Register and Receiver, in that land district, to select and reserve for the use of schools, an equal quantity of lands of the same value, in lieu of it, in the same or the next adjoining township; but the Secretary of the Treasury was of opinion that it could not be done consistently with the existing law. The committee are of opinion, that the views of the Commissioner of the General Land Office are equitable; and that the claimants ought to be permitted to complete their purchase, and another tract of equal value, be selected for the use of schools. And they report a bill to that effect.